

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (currently amended) A dishwasher comprising a circulating pump, a washing tank provided with a substantially horizontal filter disposed in the path of the flow of water drawn in by the circulating pump, and a sprayer means capable of directing downwardly at least one rotating water jet, wherein the such filter presents a ~~not~~ non-uniform percentage of open area; and ~~an area of the filter below a circular pattern of~~ the downwardly directed jet presents impinges substantially upon a said percentage of open area lower than the other portions of the filter with other portions of the filter being outside a circular pattern of the downwardly directed jet.

2 (canceled)

3 (previously presented) A dishwasher according to claim 1, in which said filter is a perforated or punched plate, wherein it presents one central zone and two side zones outside the circular pattern of the downwardly directed jet, such two side zones having a percentage of open area higher than the percentage of open area of the central zone.

4 (original) A dishwasher according to claim 3, wherein said two side zones have a plurality of holes with a pitch lower than the pitch of holes in the central zone of the filter.

5 (currently amended) A dishwasher according to claim 4, wherein said central zone ~~two side zones~~ of the filter presents a percentage of open area comprised between ~~208%~~ and ~~4020%~~.

6 (original) A dishwasher according to claim 5, wherein the holes of the filter have a diameter comprised between 0.7 and 0.9 mm.

7 (previously presented) A dishwasher according to claim 1, wherein the filter presents a substantially circular zone, corresponding to the circular pattern of the downwardly directed jet, with no hole or perforation.

8 (currently amended) A dishwasher comprising:
a circulating pump;
a washing tank provided with a substantially horizontal filter disposed in a path of a flow of water drawn in by the circulating pump, the filter having holes spaced in a first zone with a first percentage open area and in a second zone with a second percentage open area, the first percentage open area being larger than the second percentage open area;
a sprayer ~~means~~ with at least one downwardly directed water jet, wherein the water jet rotates in a circular pattern and strikes substantially upon the second zone of the filter with the first zone being outside the circular pattern of the water jet, resulting in a substantial reduction of an amount of air bubbles entrained with the water that is drawn in by the circulating pump.

9 (canceled)

10 (previously presented) The dishwasher according to claim 8, wherein the second zone is presented in a circular pattern.

11 (previously presented) The dishwasher according to claim 8, wherein the second percentage open area of the filter is presented in a central zone and the first percentage open area of the filter is presented in two side zones, the two side zones being outside the circular pattern of the downwardly directed jet.

12 (previously presented) The dishwasher according to claim 11, wherein the holes of the central zone have a pitch higher than the pitch of holes in the two side zones of the filter.

13 (previously presented) The dishwasher according to claim 11, wherein the filter is a perforated plate.

14 (previously presented) The dishwasher according to claim 8, wherein the second zone of the filter presents the second percentage open area between 8% and 20%.

15 (previously presented) The dishwasher according to claim 14, wherein the holes of the filter have a diameter comprised between 0.7 and 0.9 mm.

16 (new) A dishwasher comprising:
a circulating pump;

a washing tank provided with a substantially horizontal filter disposed in the path of a flow of water drawn in by the circulating pump, the filter being substantially covered by a plurality of holes; and

a sprayer capable of directing downwardly at least one rotating water jet,
wherein the downwardly directed jet impinges substantially upon an area of the filter having a percentage of open area lower than other portions of the filter with other portions of the filter being outside the circular pattern of the water jet.

17 (new) The dishwasher according to claim 16, wherein the area of the filter having a percentage of open area lower than other portions of the filter is substantially circular, with no hole or perforation.

18 (new) The dishwasher according to claim 16, wherein the filter is a perforated plate having a central zone and at least one side zones, the side zone having a percentage of open area higher than the percentage of open area of the central zone.

19 (new) The dishwasher according to claim 20, wherein the holes of the central zone have a pitch higher than the pitch of the holes in the side zone.